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General and complete disarmament: Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status

Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/77 D, Member States, including the five nuclear-weapon States, were invited to cooperate with Mongolia in taking the necessary measures to consolidate and strengthen Mongolia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the inviolability of its borders, its economic security, its ecological balance and its nuclear-weapon-free status, as well as its independent foreign policy.

2. At the same time, the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations bodies were requested to provide the necessary assistance to Mongolia in that regard.

3. The present report contains an account of the assistance accorded to Mongolia by the Secretariat and relevant United Nations bodies and the various actions taken by Mongolia to promote its nuclear-weapon-free status, including consultations between the five nuclear-weapon States and Mongolia, and to explore ways and means of implementing the resolution on the subject.

4. The United Nations, within existing resources, continues to assist Mongolia in strengthening its security by implementing General Assembly resolution 53/77 D.

* A/55/150.

** This report covers the period from January 1999 to July 2000.

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I. Introduction

1. On 4 December 1998, the General Assembly adopted resolution 53/77 D, entitled "Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status", paragraphs 3, 5 and 6 of which read as follows:

> "3. *Invites* Member States, including the five nuclear-weapon States, to cooperate with Mongolia in taking the necessary measures to consolidate and strengthen Mongolia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the inviolability of its borders, its economic security, its ecological balance and its nuclear-weapon-free status, as well as its independent foreign policy;
>
> 5. *Requests* the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations bodies to provide the necessary assistance to Mongolia, within existing resources, to take the necessary measures mentioned in paragraph 3 above; ...
>
> 6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to the request in paragraph 6.

II. Activities related to Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status

3. Pursuant to paragraph 6 of 53/77 D, the Department for Disarmament Affairs, through its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (hereafter referred to as "the Centre") has extended its assistance to Mongolia for the promotion of its initiative. By putting this initiative on the agenda of the regional disarmament meetings that it organized, the Centre has succeeded in drawing the attention of the international as well as the Asia/Pacific community to Mongolia's international security, particularly its nuclear-weapon-free status.

4. Based upon Mongolia's informative presentations, its nuclear-weapon-free status was widely discussed at the following regional disarmament meetings: the eleventh regional disarmament meeting in Asia and the Pacific, held at Kathmandu, Nepal, in March 1999; the regional disarmament meeting in Mongolia, held at Ulaanbaatar in August 1999; the twelfth regional disarmament meeting in Asia and the Pacific, held at Kathmandu, Nepal, in February 2000. Mongolia's initiative was also considered by the Kanazawa Symposium on North-East Asia, held in June 1999 and 2000 in Japan, organized by the United Nations Association of Japan, in close technical and substantive cooperation with the Centre.

5. At the Ulaanbaatar regional disarmament meeting, an entire afternoon session was devoted to in-depth discussions of Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status. At the same time, a careful analysis was made of similarities and differences between Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones.

6. In order to promote this initiative, Mongolia took several concrete actions. On 1 September 1999, the Government of Mongolia issued the Memorandum on Mongolia's International Security and Nuclear-Weapon-Free Status (A/54/323). On 3 February 2000, the Parliament of Mongolia adopted a domestic law and a resolution on its nuclear-weapon-free status (A/55/56). In April 2000, the Non-Aligned Movement, in its ministerial declaration, welcomed and expressed its support for Mongolia's legislation, considering it a concrete contribution to the international efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation regime.

7. The 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in its Final Document, adopted by consensus, also welcomed and expressed its support for Mongolia's declaration of its nuclear-weapon-free status and took note of the legislation as a unilateral measure to ensure the total absence of nuclear weapons on its territory, bearing in mind its unique conditions, as a concrete contribution to promoting the aims of nuclear non-proliferation and a practical contribution to promoting political stability and predictability in the region.

8. In order to assist the consultations being held between the five nuclear-weapon States and Mongolia on its nuclear-weapon-free status, the Centre, at the request of Mongolia, organized an informal meeting on 8 February 2000 in Geneva. At that meeting, on the basis of Mongolia's proposal on the elements to be included in security assurances, participants exchanged their views on what kind of assurances could be given to Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status. Consultations are proceeding.

III. Non-nuclear aspects of Mongolia's international security

9. Paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 53/77 D contains a variety of elements to ensure Mongolia's security besides its nuclear-weapon-free status. These non-nuclear aspects of security, including economic security and ecological balance, are being considered on a bilateral basis with a view to drawing up some form of a road map. Pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 53/77 D, and at the request of Mongolia, the Centre organized informal meetings among relevant United Nations bodies to address the non-nuclear aspects of Mongolia's international security on 1 February, 27 April and 30 May 2000 in New York. Senior staff of the United Nations Secretariat (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Department of Political Affairs, Department of Public Information and Department for Disarmament Affairs), the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme attended those meetings to discuss the problems and challenges faced by Mongolia.

10. From 8 to 10 May 2000, the Government of Mongolia, together with UNDP, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and the Ochirbat Fund, a non-governmental organization in Mongolia, organized the International Conference on Human Security in a Globalized World, in Ulaanbaatar. The Conference focused on practical aspects of human security, with particular emphasis on social, economic and ecological matters. At the end of the Conference, the participants adopted a number of recommendations on improving human security in Mongolia which were addressed to the Government of Mongolia. As a result of the Conference, and the informal consultations mentioned in paragraph 8 above, the relevant United Nations bodies are considering various ways to assist Mongolia, including the launching of a study on climate changes and protection of ecological balance.

IV. Mongolia's initiatives and their future

11. As described above, the United Nations has helped Mongolia to promote its international security and nuclear-weapon-free status. The Secretary-General hopes that assurances being worked out by the five nuclear-weapon States will be provided at an early stage so that Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status can be further consolidated. At the same time, Mongolia's consultations with the relevant United Nations bodies will also produce concrete and action-oriented approaches to addressing the non-nuclear aspects of security. The United Nations, within existing resources, continues to assist Mongolia in strengthening its security by implementing General Assembly resolution 53/77 D.